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AN HOCCELEVE ITEM

In the accounts of the life of Thomas Hoccleve, it has not been noted that in 1395 Richard II granted him a corrody in the priory of Hayling, near the Isle of Wight. The grant, which bears date of January 22 (17 Richard II.), states that 'Thomas Hoccleve clericus' is sent to the prior and convent of Hayling to receive such sustenance for the term of his life as William Gambon, defunct, had at the request of King Edward III.¹ As there is no reason to suppose that at this time Hoccleve retired from his clerkship and resided in the priory, presumably the corrody was commuted for a money annuity.² In the first year of Henry IV another entry in the *Close Rolls* states that Thomas Hoccleve has requested that his corrody at Hayling be transferred to 'our beloved clerks' William Flete and William Gedney and that the request has been granted.³ Evidently Hoccleve had disposed of his corrody in much the same way as Chaucer did of his annuity.⁴

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BRIEF MENTION

Ueber ein- und dreihebige Halbverse in der altenglischen alliterierenden Poesie, von Erich Neuner (Berlin, Mayer & Müller, 1920). Normally this study would have appeared in 1914. The author's service in the war delayed his promotion to the degree of Ph. D. until June, 1920, when the printed dissertation was duly presented to the University of Berlin.

The outstanding points of interest in this monograph will subordinate fault-finding with immaturity in linguistic reasoning, and with a lack of taste in commanding the printer's devices for the 'display' of the matter. These points are two in number: a new questioning of the validity of rhythmic principles assumed by Rieger and Sievers in the theory of Anglo-Saxon versification, and the implied endorsement of this questioning by Professors Brandl and Heusler.

The system of scansion as formulated by Professor Sievers admits certain unusual features of rhythmic movement, such as the juxtaposition of the stresses in type C, and the rhythmic peculiari-

¹ *Close Roll*. 235. mem. 22. dorso. Gambon was a *valletus* of the King's chamber in 1368. See *Life-Records of Chaucer*, IV, p. 167, also p. 177.

² See C. Plummer, *Fortesque*, Notes pp. 337-38 (cited in *N. E. D.* s. v. 'corrody') on the possibility of such commutation, and for more definite evidence my *Chaucer's Official Life*, p. 24, where I have pointed out that Gambon held several corrodies at the same time.

³ *C. R.* 245 mem. 9. dorso.

⁴ See *Chaucer's Official Life*, p. 68 and Professor Samuel Moore's "Studies in the Life-Records of Chaucer," *Anglia*, xxv, 19 ff.